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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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November 30, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **MEDI-CAL BENEFITS BASED ON STATUS OF IMMIGRANTS
PERMANENTLY RESIDING UNDER COLOR OF LAW (PRUCOL)**

As referenced in my March 10, 2004 memo to you, this is to provide you an update on our progress to identify individuals who may be eligible for PRUCOL and what steps are included in Department of Health Services (DHS) eligibility determination process to identify patients eligible for Medi-Cal under PRUCOL and to help them obtain benefits.

The term "PRUCOL" refers to noncitizen persons in the United States who are permanently residing *under color of law*. This means that persons who would not otherwise be considered permanent residents are considered permanent residents of the United States, if they meet certain criteria.

PRUCOL is not an official United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) classification, but the term is used frequently by other federal, state, and local agencies. Health and Human Services regulations specify PRUCOL persons as a category of noncitizen persons that must be considered permanent residents for the purposes of Medi-Cal (Medicaid) eligibility. Of course, to receive Medi-Cal, an alien with PRUCOL status must also meet all other Medi-Cal eligibility criteria.

DHS continues to financially screen all patients, and where appropriate, takes and processes Medi-Cal applications for individuals with PRUCOL status. Additionally, our safety net Medi-Cal Resource Development and Recovery Services (MRDRS)

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vendors may identify patients who qualify for PRUCOL, and take and process Medi-Cal full scope applications.

The results of a special project at Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center by one of our MRDRS vendors revealed that there may be additional patients for which a PRUCOL application could be taken and processed for Medi-Cal full scope benefits. The MRDRS vendor will be providing a train-the-trainer session on January 13, 2005, to improve the knowledge base of the DHS eligibility trainers regarding the PRUCOL application process. This information will be reinforced in future training sessions as well as communicated via memorandum and instruction to facility eligibility staff.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

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c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors